



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

1 AUGUST 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Alturas – Crews Pulled From Fire Line After Illegal Marijuana Grow Discovered

(U) Firefighting efforts were halted for several hours in Modoc County after fire crews discovered an illegal marijuana growing operation. On 25 July, firefighters battling the Cove Fire in northwestern Modoc County came upon the grow site. The sheriff and undersheriff met with fire officials and determined the operation was on public land. While they were at the fire scene, they spotted two people sitting under a tree atop a ridge near the fire, and law enforcement and fire officials decided it was not safe for crews to continue firefighting efforts until the site could be secured. The Sheriff's Office removed 1,870 marijuana plants and approximately 600 pounds of trash. No arrests have been made.

SOURCE: 31 July 2017, [The Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) Los Banos – Two Officers Remain Hospitalized After Shooting

(U) Two police officers remained hospitalized with gunshot wounds after a struggle with a man suspected of breaking into his estranged wife's apartment in central California. A Los Banos Police Chief said one of the officers, a six-year veteran, was shot in the torso, lower leg and head yesterday. The other officer, who joined the department a year ago, was shot in the torso. Both were in stable condition at Modesto-area hospitals. The suspect apparently got a hold of one of the officer's guns and turned it on the officers. The suspect was shot and killed in the struggle.

SOURCE: 1 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Palo Alto – Suspect in String of Arson Fires Arrested

(U) A man was arrested on suspicion of committing a string of arsons in a single night near the Stanford Shopping Center in Palo Alto. The four suspicious fires began between 2 and 5:30 am on 28 July. Terry Lee Hill Jr., a 23-year-old resident of Palo Alto, was detained and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail on suspicion of four felony counts of arson, police said. The suspect allegedly set fire to a parked car, a dumpster, a garage, and some plants along a bike path. On 29 July, an officer on patrol near the area where the car fire was set a day earlier saw a man who strongly resembled the arson suspect, who had been caught on surveillance footage, according to police. The officer detained the man, who was later identified as Hill.

SOURCE: 31 July 2017, [SF Gate](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Nevada – Hackers Breached Defenses of US Voting Machines in Less Than 90 Minutes

(U) Las Vegas – Hackers competed to take control of US voting machines and overcame some of their security defenses in less than 90 minutes. The results of the competition are likely to add to anxieties about the hacking of future US elections and about possible Russian interference in Donald Trump's victory in November. The DEF CON competition was said to have exposed a wide range of vulnerabilities in 30 computer-powered ballot boxes that had been acquired on eBay or from US government auctions so hackers could try to attack them. The hackers were allowed to break the machines open to see how they worked, as well as trying to gain control of them remotely.

SOURCE: 31 July 2017, [The Independent](#)

(U) Washington – Virgin America Computer System Hacked

(U) Seattle – Alaska Airlines says it is taking precautions including requiring employees to change their passwords after Virgin America's computer systems were hacked. An Alaska Airlines spokeswoman reported the company noticed unusual activity in Virgin's systems in March and notified law enforcement and hired cybersecurity experts. She said customer information wasn't affected but employees and contractors will be required to change passwords every 90 days. About 3,100 employees may have had their login information stolen, the airline said. Another 110 also had personal information compromised, including addresses, Social Security numbers and health-related information. The airline is paying for credit-monitoring services for those 110 employees and contractors.

SOURCE: 31 July 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – Report Indicates Terror Plot Involved Poisoning Passengers, Using Homemade Bombs

(U) Melbourne – Police in Australia are continuing to hunt for more evidence as they investigate a major terror plot targeting the aviation industry. Four people – two Lebanese-Australians men and their two sons – were arrested in raids in Sydney on 29 July, following an intelligence tip-off. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull described the plot as “Islamic-inspired terrorism.” Police are conducting forensic work at five properties linked to the suspects, but refused to elaborate on details of the planned attack. Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin would not confirm reports in the Australian media that the plot involved poisoning passengers with a toxic gas, or using a homemade bomb smuggled onto a flight in hand luggage.

SOURCE: 31 July 2017, [FOX News](#)

(U) Indonesia – Indonesia to Lift Ban on Telegram Message Service

(U) Jakarta – Indonesia and encrypted messaging service Telegram have agreed to establish better procedures to stamp out distribution of terrorist propaganda on the platform, the app's founder and the communications minister said today. Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, has seen a resurgence in home-grown radicalism, and worries about the growing influence of ISIS. Telegram is a messaging platform believed to be popular with ISIS sympathizers, who use chatrooms with hundreds of members, in addition to holding private conversations. Indonesian authorities blocked access to some Telegram channels last month, saying it had several forums that were “full of radical and terrorist propaganda”.

SOURCE: 1 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) North Korea – US Officials Report North Korea Can Hit Most of United States with ICBM

(U) Pyongyang – North Korea's latest test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) has shown that Pyongyang now may be able to reach most of the continental United States, two US officials told news media yesterday. The assessment, which the officials discussed on condition of anonymity, underscored the growing threat posed by Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs, and could add pressure on President Donald Trump's administration to respond. On 29 July, North Korea said it had conducted another successful test of an ICBM that proved its ability to strike America's mainland.

SOURCE: 31 July 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Somalia – Authorities Kill Senior Al-Shabaab Commander in Raids

(U) Torotoroo – Yesterday, Somalia reported its military and allied foreign troops had killed a senior member of al-Shabaab it said was responsible for several Islamist bombings. The information ministry said a military raid near the southern town of Torotoroo on 30 July killed a man identified as Ali

Mohamed Hussein or Ali Jabal. It did not disclose the nationality of the foreign troops, but American soldiers have in the past taken part in such raids. This individual was part of an al-Shabaab network responsible for planning and executing several bombings and assassinations that resulted in the death of numerous innocent civilians in Mogadishu.

SOURCE: 31 July 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – US Moves to Build Barriers along US-Mexico Border

(U) San Diego – The US Department of Homeland Security reported today it would allow expedited construction of security-related barriers and roads along the nation's southern border with Mexico near San Diego, waiving environmental and other related laws. In a statement, DHS said the infrastructure projects would focus on a roughly 15-mile segment extending eastwards from the Pacific Ocean as part of US President Donald Trump's planned border wall between the United States and Mexico.

SOURCE: 1 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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